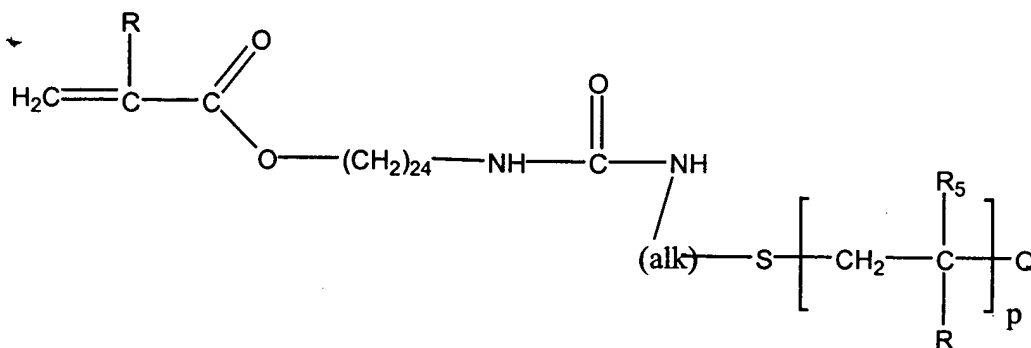


Please amend the first paragraph at page 68, lines 1-10 as follows:

A particularly preferred embodiment of the invention relates to hydrophilic macromonomers of the formula



(1b),
wherein for R, R₅, R₆, Q, (alk) and p the above-given meanings and preferences apply. A particularly preferred group of hydrophilic macromonomers are compounds of the above formula (1b) wherein R is hydrogen or methyl, (alk) is C₂-C₄-alkylene, R₅ is hydrogen or methyl, p is an integer of 5 to 50, Q is as defined before, and for R₆ the above given meanings and preferences apply.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 14-16.

Please amend claims 1, 2, and 4-11 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for modifying the surface of an article, said method comprising the steps of:

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a) depositing at least a polyelectrolytic tie layer onto the surface of said article, wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is composed of (i) one layer of a first polyionic material which is not covalently attached to the surface of the article or (ii) at least one layer of the first polyionic material which is not covalently attached to the surface of the article and at least one layer of a second

polyionic material having charges opposite of the charges of the first polyionic material, wherein said first and second polyionic materials have functional groups which provide reactive sites; and

b) grafting a layer of an active agent to said reactive sites.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said grafting step is effected by a method chosen from the group consisting of precipitation reactions, covalent reactions, hydrogen bonding, and polymerization reactions.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in the step of depositing two or more polyelectrolytic tie layers are successively deposited onto said article surface.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in the step of depositing one polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto said article surface.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto said article surface by contacting said article with one or more polyionic material solutions.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said layer is deposited by dipping said article into a first solution comprising the first polyionic material having positive or negative charges, removing said article from said first solution, dipping said article into a second solution comprising the second polyionic material having charges that are opposite of the charges of the first polyionic material, and removing said article from said second solution.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto said article surface by dipping said article into a solution comprising the first polyionic material and the second polyionic material and then removing said article from said solution.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said contacting occurs by spraying a solution onto the medical device.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited by spraying said article with a first solution comprising the first polyionic material having positive or negative charges and then spraying said article with a second solution comprising the second polyionic material having charges opposite of the charges of the first polyionic material.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto said article surface by spraying said article with a solution comprising the first polyionic material and the second polyionic material.

Please add claims 17-18 as follows:

17. The method of claim 6, wherein said polyelectrolytic tie layer is deposited onto the surface of said article by: (1) spraying said article with a first solution comprising the first polyionic material and then dipping said article into a second solution comprising the second polyionic material having charges opposite of the charges of the first polyionic material; or (2) dipping said article into the first solution comprising the first polyionic material and then spraying said article